

TOWN OF NORTHUMBERLAND

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING BICYCLES, SKATEBOARDS, AND SCOOTERS

1. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

ELECTRIC PERSONAL ASSISTIVE MOBILITY DEVICE - A self-balancing, 2 non-tandem-wheeled device designed to transport only one person, solely powered by an electric propulsion system, with a maximum speed of less than 20 miles per hour.

SKATEBOARD - A short, narrow board having one set of two or more wheels mounted under it.

SCOOTER - A vehicles consisting of a long foot board between two end wheels, controlled by an upright steering handle attached to the front wheel.

WAY - Any road, street, avenue, boulevard, court, parking lot or way legally accepted for maintenance and dedicated public use by the legislative authority of the state and/or city.

SIDEWALK - That portion of a public highway between the curb and the adjacent property lines.

BICYCLE: Shall mean every pedaled vehicle upon which any person may ride, except a child's tricycles and similar devices. Propelled solely by human power.

2. Bicycle Registration Highly Recommended: Non-Transferability.

A. It is highly recommended that a person who wishes to ride or operate any bicycle upon any way within the Town of Northumberland should first register the same with the Police Department. In order to be registered, a bicycle shall:

- (1) Be in good, safe mechanical condition.
- (2) Be equipped with an audible signaling device and adequate brakes.
- (3) Have a distinctive identification marker or serial number.

B. Any owner or person having the custody and control over any bicycle registered in accordance with the provisions hereof, shall not attach any registration sticker to any other than that to which it is assigned. The renewal date of such registration shall be established by the Chief of Police along with any fees charged for registration.

II. **Application of Motor Vehicle Laws to Bicycles.**

- A. Every person propelling a vehicle by human power or riding a bicycle shall have all of the rights and be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle under the rules of the road.
- B. Every person riding upon a bicycle shall obey all traffic signs and other regulations.
- C. No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.
- D. No person may park a bicycle on a sidewalk as to impede the normal and reasonable movement of pedestrians or other traffic.
- E. Every bicycle operating during darkness, shall be equipped with a lamp emitting a white light visible from a distance of 300 feet in the front of the bicycle and a red reflector on the rear which also shall be visible from a distance of 300 feet.
 - 1. Every bicycle operated during darkness shall also be equipped with pedals equipped with reflectors visible from the front and rear of the bicycle at a distance of 200 feet during darkness.
 - 2. Every bicycle shall have reflectors on the spokes of the wheels.
 - 3. The effective date of these two sections shall be any bicycle manufactured after 1983.
- F. Every bicycle shall be equipped with a brake or brakes.
- G. All persons shall obey all other rules and regulations as spelled out under current New Hampshire Law.

3. Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices

- A. These devices shall be allowed on all streets and sidewalks in town.

4. Operation of Skateboards and Scooters.

- A. The operation of skateboards and scooters shall be permitted within the Town of Northumberland except on the ways and sidewalks and other public areas in the downtown vicinity specifically defined as follows:
 - On State Street from Main Street to the end of the sidewalks**
 - On Main Street**
 - On Church Street**
 - Municipal Parking Lot located on State St.**
- B. All skateboards and scooters shall be ridden or operated with due care with regard for rules governing pedestrian and pedestrian safety. Pedestrians shall have the right of way at all times.
- C. Reflective Material Required. During the hours of darkness (1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise), any person operating a skateboard, rollerblades, scooter, or roller skates, shall be required to have reflective material, and shall be worn/displayed so that it is visible to vehicle headlights.

5. Violations and Penalties.

- A. Any person 16 years of age or older found violating this chapter shall be guilty of a violation and shall be fined no more than fifty dollars (\$50.) for a first offense and no more than one hundred dollars (\$100.) for subsequent offenses.
- B. Any person under the age of 16 found in violation of this chapter may have their bicycle, skateboard, or scooter impounded by the Police Department for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days. When a bicycle, skateboard or scooter is impounded by the Police Department pursuant to this section, the owner of said item impounded may within two (2) days, request a hearing on the impoundment which shall be heard by the Chief of Police or his designee. Said hearing shall be conducted within two (2) days following a request, weekends and holidays excluded. The person holding the hearing may uphold, overturn or modify the term of impoundment. Following the hearing, the Chief of Police or his designee shall render a decision and notify the owner by letter within two (2) days.

This ordinance was adopted by the Board of Selectmen on May 13, 2002.

This ordinance was amended on Aug 9, 2004 and effective on Aug. 9, 2004.